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Carolyn Jones

Carolyn Sue Jones[1] (April 28, 1930 – August 3, 1983)[2] was an American actress of television and film. Jones began her film career in the early 1950s, and by the end of the decade had achieved recognition with a nomination for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for *The Bachelor Party* (1957) and a Golden Globe Award as one of the most promising new actresses of 1959. Her film career continued for another 20 years. In 1964, she began playing the role of matriarch Morticia Addams in the original black and white television series *The Addams Family*.

Early life

Carolyn Jones was born in Amarillo, Texas to homemaker Chloe Jeanette Southern,[3] and Julius Alfred Jones, a barber.[1][4][5] After their father abandoned the family in 1934, Carolyn and her younger sister, Bette Rhea Jones,[3] moved with their mother into her maternal grandparents' Amarillo home.[6] Jones suffered from severe asthma that often restricted her childhood activities, and when her condition prevented her from going to the movies, she became an avid reader of Hollywood fan magazines and aspired to become an actress. She enrolled at the Pasadena Playhouse in California at age 17, with her grandfather, Charles W. Baker, paying her tuition.[7][8][9]

Film

After being spotted by a talent scout at the Playhouse, Jones secured a contract with Paramount Pictures and made her first film, an uncredited part in *The Turning Point* (1952);[9] had an uncredited bit part as a nightclub hostess in *The Big Heat* (1953); and a role in *House of Wax* (also 1953) as the woman who is converted by Vincent Price's character into a Joan of Arc statue. She played Beth in *Shield for Murder* (1954), earning $500 per day for playing the role.[11]

Jones was cast in the film *From Here to Eternity* (1953) in the role of Alma "Lorene" Burke. A bout of pneumonia forced her to withdraw; the role earned Donna Reed the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.[12]

In 1956 she appeared in *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and in the Alfred Hitchcock film *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, a remake of one of the director's earlier films.

Carolyn Jones

Jones in 1956

Born	Carolyn Sue Jones April 28, 1930 Amarillo, Texas, U.S.
Died	August 3, 1983 (aged 53) West Hollywood, California, U.S.
Resting place	Melrose Abbey Memorial Park Cemetery, Anaheim, California, U.S.
Occupations	Actress · singer
Years active	1952–1983
Spouses	Don Donaldson (m. 1950; div. 1951) Aaron Spelling (m. 1953; div. 1964) Herbert Greene (m. 1968; div. 1977) Peter Bailey-Britton (m. 1982)

In 1958, Jones was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for *The Bachelor Party* (1957), and she also shared the Golden Globe Award for New Star of the Year – Actress with Sandra Dee and Diane Varsi, and appeared with Elvis Presley in *King Creole* (1958).

Jones played opposite Frank Sinatra in Frank Capra's *A Hole in the Head*, Dean Martin in *Career*, and Anthony Quinn and Kirk Douglas in *Last Train from Gun Hill* (all 1959).

In the epic Western *How the West Was Won* (1963), she played the role of Sheriff Jeb Rawlings' (George Peppard) wife. She appears with Peppard and Debbie Reynolds in the final speaking/singing scenes of the film.

John Astin and Carolyn Jones as Gomez Addams and Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family* (1964)

Television

The actress made her television debut on the DuMont series *Gruen Playhouse* in 1952. Jones appeared in several episodes of *Dragnet* starring Jack Webb from 1953-1955, credited as ‘’Caroline Jones’’. She appeared in two Rod Cameron syndicated series, *City Detective* and *State Trooper*, as Betty Fowler in the 1956 episode, "The Paperhanger of Pioche”. Jones also appeared on the CBS anthology series *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* in the episode "The Cheney Vase" (1955), as a secretary assisting her scheming boyfriend Darren McGavin in attempting an art theft, and opposite Ruta Lee.

Guest stars for the 1961 premiere episode of *The Dick Powell Show*, "Who Killed Julie Greer?". Standing, from left: Ronald Reagan, Nick Adams, Lloyd Bridges, Mickey Rooney, Edgar Bergen, Jack Carson, Ralph Bellamy, Kay Thompson, Dean Jones. Seated, from left, Carolyn Jones and Dick Powell.

In 1957 she had the lead in the episode "The Girl in the Grass" on CBS's *Schlitz Playhouse*, with once again Ray Milland and Nora Marlowe.

Jones guest starred three times on the television series *Wagon Train*: in first-season episode "The John Cameron Story" (1957) and in later color episodes "The Jenna Douglas Story" (1961) and "The Molly Kincaid Story" (1963). Also in 1963 she was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best TV Star - Female for portraying quadruplets—one the murder victim and the others suspects—in the *Burke's Law* episode "Who Killed Sweet Betsy?"

She guest-starred in CBS's *The DuPont Show with June Allyson*, with James Best and Jack Mullaney, in the episode "Love on Credit" (1960).

In the 1962–1963 season, Jones guest-starred on CBS's *The Lloyd Bridges Show*, which Spelling created. While married to Spelling, she appeared on the NBC program *Here's Hollywood*.[13]

In 1964, Jones donned a long coal-black wig to play Morticia Addams in the television series *The Addams Family*, a role which brought her a Golden Globe Award nomination and success as a comedian. She guest-starred on the 1960s TV series *Batman*, playing Marsha, the Queen of Diamonds,[5] and in 1976 appeared as the title character's mother, Hippolyta, in the *Wonder Woman* TV series. In Tobe Hooper's movie *Eaten Alive* (1976), she played a madam running a rural whorehouse. The film also featured Neville Brand, Roberta Collins, and Robert Englund. Her last role was that of Myrna, the scheming matriarch of

the Clegg clan, on the soap opera *Capitol* from the first episode in March 1982 until March 1983, though she already knew that she was dying of cancer. During her occasional absences, veteran actress Marla Adams subbed for her.

Her acting career declined after *The Addams Family* ended in 1966. Sporadic roles in the 1970s included that of Mrs. Moore, the wife of the plantation owner in the miniseries *Roots*.

Carolyn Jones and John Church in the Broadway production of *The Homecoming* by Harold Pinter in 1967[10]

Personal life

Jones was married four times and had no children. While studying at the Pasadena Playhouse, Jones married Don Donaldson, a 28-year-old fellow student. The couple soon divorced.[14]

Jones converted to Judaism upon being married to television producer Aaron Spelling from 1953 until their 1964 separation and divorce.[15]

Her third marriage, in 1968, was to Tony Award-winning Broadway musical director, vocal arranger and co-producer Herbert Greene (who was her vocal coach); she left him in 1977. She married actor Peter Bailey-Britton in September 1982.

Jones and Aaron Spelling in 1960

Final years and death

Jones gained the role of the power-driven political matriarch Myrna Clegg in the CBS daytime soap opera *Capitol* in 1981. The following year, shortly after *Capitol* debuted, she was diagnosed with colon cancer, and played many of her scenes in a wheelchair.[16] The cancer spread quickly to her liver and stomach. Despite the pain, Jones finished the first season.[17]

Even after being diagnosed with colon cancer, Jones continued to work, telling colleagues that she was being treated for ulcers.[18] After a period of apparent remission, the cancer returned in 1982. In September 1982, realizing she was dying, Jones married her boyfriend of five years, actor Peter Bailey-Britton. She wore a lace-and-ribbon cap to hide the loss of her hair from chemotherapy.

In July 1983, she fell into a coma at her home in West Hollywood, California, where she died on August 3, 1983. Her body was cremated on August 4 and a memorial service was held at Glasband-Willen Mortuary in Altadena, California, on August 5, 1983. Her ashes were interred in her mother's crypt at Melrose Abbey

Memorial Park & Mortuary in Anaheim. She donated her Morticia costume and wig to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, while a collection of *The Addams Family* scripts was donated by Bailey-Britton to UCLA.[19]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1952	*The Turning Point*	Miss Lillian Smith	Uncredited
	Road to Bali	Eunice	Uncredited
	Off Limits	Deborah	
1953	*The War of the Worlds*	Blonde Party Guest	Uncredited
	House of Wax	Cathy Gray	
	The Big Heat	Doris	
	Geraldine	Kitty	
1954	*Make Haste to Live*	Mary Rose	
	The Saracen Blade	Elaine of Siniscola	
	Shield for Murder	Girl at Bar	
	Three Hours to Kill	Polly	her character says "I don't look so good in black"
	Désirée	Mme. Tallien	Uncredited
1955	*The Seven Year Itch*	Nurse Finch	
	The Tender Trap	Helen	
1956	*Invasion of the Body Snatchers*	Theodora 'Teddy' Belicec	
	The Man Who Knew Too Much	Cindy Fontaine	
	The Opposite Sex	Pat	
1957	*The Bachelor Party*	The Existentialist	Nominated—Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress
	Johnny Trouble	Julie Horton	
	Baby Face Nelson	Sue Nelson	
1958	*Marjorie Morningstar*	Marsha Zelenko	Golden Globe Award for New Star of the Year – Actress (with Sandra Dee and Diane Varsi)
	King Creole	Ronnie	
1959	*The Man in the Net*	Linda Hamilton	
	Last Train from Gun Hill	Linda	
	A Hole in the Head	Shirl	
	Career	Shirley Drake	
1960	*Ice Palace*	Bridie Ballantyne	

1961	*Sail a Crooked Ship*	Virginia	
1962	*How the West Was Won*	Julie Rawlings	
1963	*A Ticklish Affair*	Tandy Martin	
1969	*Heaven with a Gun*	Madge McCloud	
	Color Me Dead	Paula Gibson	
1976	*Eaten Alive*	Miss Hattie	
1979	*Good Luck, Miss Wyckoff*	Beth	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1952–1954	*Mr. and Mrs. North*	Various characters	3 episodes
1953–1955	*Dragnet*	Various characters	5 episodes; billed as *Caroline Jones*
1954	*The Pepsi-Cola Playhouse*	Karen Brook	3 episodes
1954–1955	*Studio 57*	Various characters	4 episodes
1955	*Alfred Hitchcock Presents*	Pamela Waring	Season 1 Episode 13: "The Cheney Vase"
1954–1957	*Schlitz Playhouse of Stars*	Various characters	4 episodes
1955–1957	*The Millionaire*	Carol Fletcher; Emily Short	2 episodes
1957–1961	*Zane Grey Theater*	Various characters	3 episodes
1957–1963	*Wagon Train*	Various characters	3 episodes: 'The John Cameron Story';
1961–1962	*The Dick Powell Show*	Various characters	3 episodes
1962	*Dr. Kildare*	Evy Schaller	Episode: "The Mask Makers"
1963–1964	*Burke's Law*	Richards quadruplets (1963); Carole Durand (1964)	2 episodes Nominated—Golden Globe Award for Best TV Star - Female (1963)
1964–1966	*The Addams Family*	Morticia Addams; Ophelia Frump; Lady Fingers	64 episodes
1966–1967	*Batman*	Marsha, Queen of Diamonds	5 episodes
1967	*Rango*	Belle Starker	Episode: "What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing Holding Up a Place Like This?"
1969	*The Mod Squad*	Lisa Whittaker; Ginny	Episode: "Lisa"
1969	*Storybook Squares*	Morticia Addams	Series debut
1969	*Love, American Style*	Vera	Segment: "Love and the Geisha"

1971	*The Men From Shiloh*	Annie Spencer	Episode: "The Legacy of Spencer Flats"
1972	*The New Scooby-Doo Movies*	Morticia Addams	Voice, Episode: "Wednesday is Missing"
1972	*Ghost Story*	Martha Alcott	Episode: "The Summer House"
1974	*Ironside*	Justine Cross	2 episodes
1975	*Kolchak: The Night Stalker*	The Registrar	Episode: "Demon In Lace"
1976	*Ellery Queen*	Rita Radcliffe	Episode: "The Adventure of the Hardhearted Huckster"
1976–1977	*Wonder Woman*	Queen Hippolyta	3 episodes
1977	*Roots*	Mrs. Moore	Television miniseries
1977	*Halloween with the New Addams Family*	Morticia Addams; Ophelia Frump	Television film
1977	*Little Ladies of the Night*	Marilyn Atkins	Television film
1977–1981	*Quincy, M.E.*	Various characters	3 episodes
1979	*The French Atlantic Affair*	Peg	Television miniseries
1979	*The Love Boat*	Margaret Jerome	Segment: "Cindy"
1979–1982	*Fantasy Island*	Various characters	3 episodes
1980	*The Dream Merchants*	Vera	Television miniseries
1980	*Whew!*	Herself	5 episodes
1981	*Midnight Lace*	Bernadette Chance	Remake of 1960 feature film
1982	*Tattletales*	Herself	5 episodes
1982	*Capitol*	Myrna Clegg	8 episodes; final acting role

Honors

Year	Award	Category	Title of work	Result
1958	Academy Award	Best Supporting Actress	*The Bachelor Party*	Nominated
1959	Golden Globe Award	New Star of the Year – Actress	*Marjorie Morningstar*	Won
1963		Best TV Star - Female	*Burke's Law*	Nominated

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Further reading

- Jones, Carolyn (1971). *Twice Upon a Time*. Trident Press. ISBN 978-0671270742.

External links

Biography portal

- Carolyn Jones (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0427700/) at IMDb
- Carolyn Jones (https://www.allmovie.com/artist/p36060) at AllMovie
- Carolyn Jones (https://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/person/96314%7C27928/Carolyn-Jones#overview) at Turner Classic Movies
- Carolyn Jones (https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/101908) at the Internet Broadway Database
- Carolyn Jones (http://www.iobdb.com/CreditableEntity/27045) at the Internet Off-Broadway Database
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